

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 033509
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:AR DAY:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA:AR DAY

S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 033509

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

FOL RPT BEIRUT 0657 ACTION SECSTATE 14 FEB QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 0657

NODIS

FOR ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECURITY FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: STATE 32765

1. COUNTRY TEAM HAS CONTACTED A VARIETY OF SOURCES AND HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY THAT CAN SHED LIGHT ON PRESS REPORTS OF PLOTTING AGAINST SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BEIRUT. FONMIN BOUTROS WAS UNAWARE OF THESE REPORTS WHEN I CALLED ON HIM MORNING FEB 14 (EVEN THOUGH I AM TOLD THEY HAVE BEEN ON LEBANESE

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AND ISRAELI RADIOS), BUT HE PROMISED TO CHECK AND INFORM ME ASAP. COL KURAYTIM, LEBANESE OFFICER WHO IS G-2 ON ASF STAFF, IS INVESTIGATING AS ARE LEB ARMY G-2, LEBANESE SURETE AND PALACE SECURITY, BUT THEY HAVE NO INFO ON ANY PLOT AT THIS TIME. SENIOR PLO SOURCE CONTACTED BY EMBASSY LOCAL SAID HE "SURPRISED" BY REPORTS; WILL INVESTIGATE AND CALL BACK.

2. TENSION IN SABRA, CHATILA AND BURJ BARAJNAH REFUGEE CAMP AREAS CONTINUES IN WAKE OF FIGHTING THERE LAST WEEK AND SIGNS THAT SYRIAN ASF FORCES MAY BE PREPARING TO ENTER REFUGEE CAMPS THIS WEEK TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS MADE BY QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE ON FEB 12. ACCORDING TO OUR INFO, FIGHTING LAST WEEK IN THIS AREA WAS SPARKED BY DISPUTE BETWEEN RIVAL PFLP FACTIONS AND NOT RPT NOT AS REPORTED BY KUWAITI NEWSPAPER AL QABAS AS SEQUENCE OF "PLOT TO BLOW UP THE SECSTATE AIRCRAFT IN BEIRUT."

3. WE WILL CONTINUE CONTACTS WITH ALL OUR SOURCES

AND CABLE FURTHER REPORT TO SECRETARY IN TEL AVIV BY OPENING OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY MORNING.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASK KUWAIT ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN SOURCE OF AL QABAS STORY.

5. IN OUR VIEW, KEY ELEMENT IN SAFETY OF ROUTE ALONG WHICH SECRETARY'S MOTORCADE WILL TRAVEL FROM AIRPORT TO BAABDA WILL BE ACTIONS OF SYRIAN ASF REGARDING PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN THIS AREA (SHATILA AND SABRA). IF SYRIANS ATTACK, REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS IN CAMPS MAY REACT VIOLENTLY. THEREFORE, SUGGEST DEPT ASK EMBASSY DAMASCUS TO ASK SYRIANS TO HOLD OFF ANY ATTEMPTS TO ENTER THESE AREAS UNTIL AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.
PARKER

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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